

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - FEB. 16,17,18,19

1. MEXICO MFM: CONTINUES TO RECEIVE STRAIGHTFORWARD COVER-
AGE WITH SCANTY, MIXED-REACTION COMMENTARIES. PRESTIGIOUS
O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO (FEB 15) IN MULTI-AGENCY REWRITE SAYS
"LATINS WILL NOT ACCEPT MONOLOGUE IN MEXICO". STORY SAYS
"KISSINGER MANIFESTED DESIRE OF MAKING PUBLIC SPEECH AT
MFM OPENING, BUT ENCOUNTERED FIRM OPPOSITION FROM SEVERAL
LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES, FEARFUL THAT (THE SPEECH) MAY
TURN MEETING INTO A SIMPLE MONOLOGUE." SOTRY QUOTES AMBASSADORS
PITTY OF PANAMA AND MARCHAND OF PERU AS SAYING "IF
KISSINGER MAKES HIS POSITION PUBLIC, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE
TO IMPOSE SILENCE ON THE 24-CHANCELLOR MEETING." IN AN-
OTHER MULTI-AGENCY REWRITE ON FEB 16, SAME PAPER SAYS
"THE OAS PROJECT FOR REFORM OF THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM,
WHICH COST SIX MONTHS OF WORK AND ONE MILLION DOLLARS,
MAY BE SCRAPPED DURING MFM." STORY QUOTES "WASHINGTON
DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" AS SAYING THIS MAY HAPPEN BECAUSE OF
CHANGE FROM "SUSPICION TO SERENITY" IN U.S.-LATAM RELATIONS.
IN A NON-BYLINED ANALYSIS DATELINED MEXICO CITY, PAPER SAYS
MFM IS NOT EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SPECTACULAR RESULTS, AND
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SPECULATES THAT FOR KISSINGER "THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO

BUILD AN ASSOCIATION BASED ON CONSENSUS AND NO LONGER ON POWER". CONSERVATIVE CORREIO BRASILIENSE (LARGEST CIRCULATION IN CAPITAL) PLAYS UP DIVERGENCES IN LATAM BLOC IN FRONT-PAGE STORY ON FEB 16 SAYING "LATAM REPRESENTATIVES IN MFM SEEMED DIVIDED ON WHETHER THEY SHOULD ADOPT A 'MODERATE' OR A 'STRONG' POSITION TOWARDS KISSINGER". STORY GOES ON TO SAY OBSERVERS THINK THIS COULD INDICATE "A FIRST CRACK IN A COMMON LATAM POSITION," AND THAT BRAZIL, BOLIVIA, URUGUAY, AND PARAGUAY STOOD FOR A MODERATE POSITION, WHILE PERU ARGENTINA AND PANAMA COULD ADOPT A STRONG OR "REALISTIC" STAND. PRO-GOB DIARIO DE BRASILIA CARRIES STORY (FEB16) ON STATEMENTS MADE IN BRASILIA BY GOVERNMENT PARTY SENATOR CARLOS KONDER REIS ABOUT MFM SAYING: "PRESENT U.S. POSITION TOWARDS LATAM IS ONE OF RESERVATION." STORY SAYS SENATOR SEES CHANCES (AT MFM) OF RE-EVALUATING U.S.-LATAM RELATIONS, AND QUOTES HIM AS SAYING: "RESERVATION (IN U.S. RELATIONS TOWARDS LATAM) DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN LACK OF INTEREST. U.S. RESERVATION IN ITS WORLD RELATIONS IS DICTATED BY ITS PRESENT RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION". WRITING IN SAME PAPER (FEB 16) INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR NEWTON CARLOS ATTRIBUTES CURRENT "U.S. DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES" TOWARDS LATAM TO "A CRISIS OF THE WORLD SYSTEM", IN GENERAL, AND TO THE "OIL CRISIS", IN PARTICULAR. AND HE GOES ON: "THE TRUE ORIGIN OF THE DIPLOMATIC REFORMULATIONS INVOLVING THE CONTINENT COULD BE FOUND IN A CRITICISM OF KISSINGER MADE BY FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE JOHN IRWIN, WHO...WARNED THAT AGREEMENTS WITH MOSCOW AND PEKING DID NOT ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICTS IN VITAL AREAS OF THE THIRD WORLD." HE CONCLUDES: "(IRWIN DID NOT TRUST IN THE STABILITY OF A WORLD ORDER MANIPULATED BY THE GREAT POWERS, WHICH KISSINGER WAS TRYING TO SET UP. OIL PROBLEMS CONFIRMED THIS (DISTRUST), DETERMINING THE ADOPTION OF NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES."

2. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO CARRIES MFM STORY UNDER MAJOR FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE IN ITS SUNDAY (FEB 17) EDITION, SAYING "LATAMS UNITED AS MEETING OPENS. STORY QUOTES MEXICAN FONMIN AS SAYING HIS COLLEAGUES "WILL NOT BE HOSTILE TOWARD KISSINGER," AND "WE WANT TO TALK TO HIM (KISSINGER), NOT AGAINST HIM." INDEPENDENT JORNAL DO BRASIL(RIO DE JANEIRO) CARRIES STORY UNCLASSIFIED

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SAYING MEETING BETWEEN KISSINGER AND LATAM FONMINS WILL BE HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, AND THAT RESULTS WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC, UNLESS THEY ARE "CONCRETE". STORY ALSO SAYS KISSINGER HAS NO SPECIFIC PLAN ON WHICH TO BASE "NEW U.S. -LATAM RELATIONS." IN A LENGTHY ANALYSIS OF MFM PROSPECTS BY ONE OF ITS FOREIGN NEWS COMMENTATORS, JORNAL DO BRASIL SAYS (FEB 17) THAT MEETING MAY RESULT IN THE "SETTING ASIDE OF THE OAS," WHICH COMMENTATOR SAYS

"HEMISPHERE GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER A OUTMODED INSTRUMENT OF THE OLD PAN-AMERICAN POLICY. COMMENTATOR'S HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF U.S.-LATAM RELATIONS SAYS THE DAYS OF LATAM INTEGRATION ITSELF, AND GIVES BRAZIL'S EFFORTS AT STARTING BI-NATIONAL PROJECTS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE NEW SITUATION. COMMENTATOR FORECASTS THAT, DESPITE UNCERTAINTY OVER MFM RESULTS, "LATIN AMERICAN CHANCELLORS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL COME OUT OF THE CONFERENCE ROOM WITH EMPTY HANDS."

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